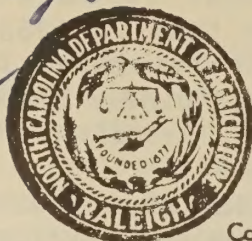


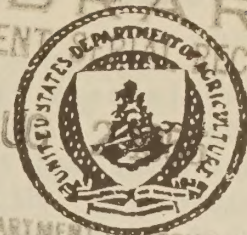
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 210

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 20, 1956

# LATE CROPS PREDOMINATE SCENE

## THE TOBACCO SITUATION

The 1956 output of cigarettes -- the leading outlet for flue-cured, burley, and Maryland tobacco -- is expected to be higher than the 412½ billion turned out in 1955. Last year's total was almost 3 percent above 1954 following the nearly 8 percent decline from the peak 435½ billion in 1952. The number of cigarettes consumed in the United States in 1955 at 382 billion rose almost 4 percent from 1954 but overseas shipments to troops and commercial exports fell off about 8 percent. A small part of the increased consumption in this country is probably due to the return of troops to the continental United States. Trade reports indicate that sales of filter tip cigarettes were continuing to increase at the close of 1955.

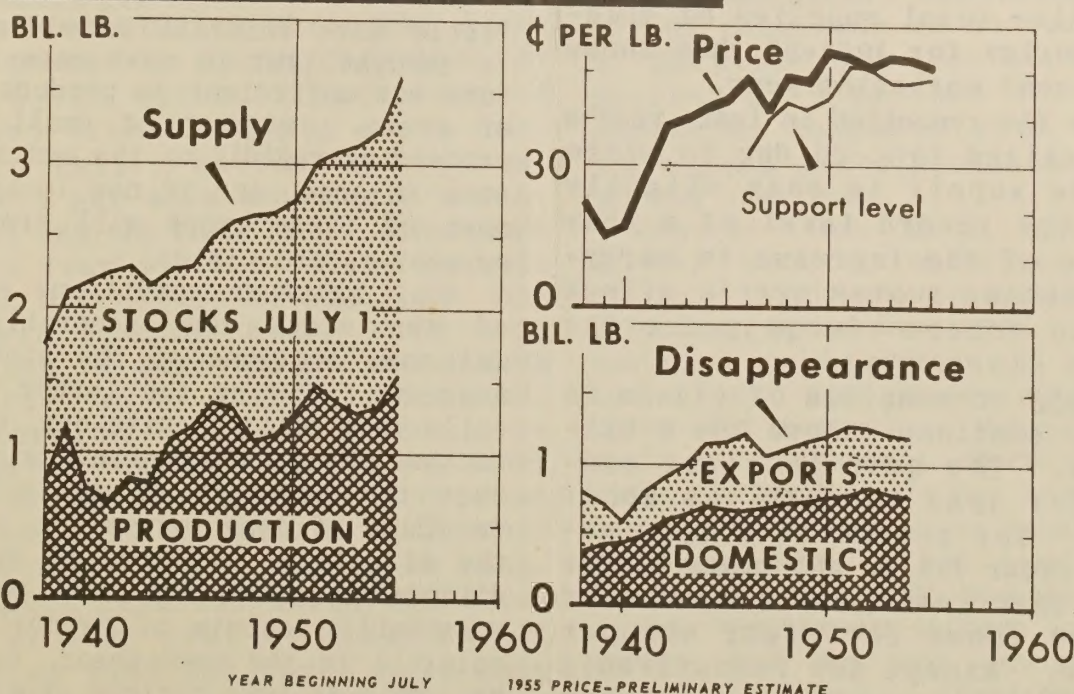
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Although growing crops were in fairly good condition as of June 1, they were, generally, not as far advanced as they usually are at that time of year. Adverse weather during the spring, with recurring cool spells and late freezes, greatly retarded planting of crops and necessitated a great deal of replanting. Intermittent periods of unseasonably low temperatures, extending even into early summer, have not been conducive to normal plant growth, and over the greater portion of the state crops are from two to three weeks late.

Stands of cotton, corn, and tobacco are reported to be poor in some areas. On the other hand, some sections report almost perfect stands and that, aside from lateness, these crops are in almost perfect condition. Much, of course, will depend upon the weather of the next two

(Continued on Page 2)

## Supplies of Flue-Cured Tobacco Far Above Requirements





## TOBACCO SITUATION (Continued)

In the current marketing year, preliminary indications are that the domestic use of flue-cured, burley, and Maryland tobacco will not be substantially different than in 1954-55 when measured on the customary farm-sales weight basis. This is in spite of the increase in cigarette manufacture. It appears that a greater number of cigarettes than formerly are being made from a given quantity of leaf tobacco.

The total supplies of flue-cured and burley for 1955-56 are about 3,537 and 1,820 million pounds. The flue-cured supply is nearly 10 percent above 1954-55 and a record high while the burley supply is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent below 1954-55 and the second largest on record. The 1956 prospective acreage as of March 1 for flue-cured is 11 percent smaller than in 1955 and reflects the cut in acreage allotments. The 1956 prospective acreage for burley is nearly the same as for 1955. The volume of burley marketed indicated that the 1955 crop was smaller than expected earlier, and legislation approved on March 2, 1956, cancelled the reductions in the 1956 burley acreage allotments announced last November 30. The carryover of flue-cured at the end of the current marketing year will reach a new high and for burley will be second only to last year's record. If 1956 yields are near the averages of recent years, it seems likely that this year's crops plus the carryovers will result in a little smaller total supplies of flue-cured and burley for 1956-57 than those for the current marketing year.

Despite the reduction in last year's crop of Maryland tobacco due to storm damage, the supply is only slightly less than the record level of a year ago because of the increase in carryover. Marketing quotas are in effect on Maryland tobacco in 1956 for the first time since 1953.

The 1956 consumption of cigars is expected to continue above the 6 billion level. The gain in cigar consumption for 1954 to 1955 was about 1 percent. The prospective 1956 acreages for cigar filler and cigar binder are lower than last year's harvested acreage but those for cigar wrapper are up some. Except for Pennsylvania filler type 41, continental filler and binder types are under acreage al-

lotments, which for most farms are about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  percent lower than in 1955. Considerable uncertainty exists as to the impact of manufactured binder sheet on the future use of and requirements for binder types of tobacco.

Consumption of smoking and chewing tobacco seems likely to decline further during 1956. In 1955, the outputs of smoking and chewing tobaccos at 79  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 79 million pounds, respectively, were nearly 5 and 3 percent smaller than in 1954 and the lowest for more than half a century. Snuff output at 39  $\frac{1}{4}$  million pounds was 2 percent above 1954 and is expected to continue at about the same level in 1956.

Snuff and chewing are the major domestic outlets for fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos although chewing products also utilize some burley and cigar binder tobacco.

Legislation approved on March 2 cancelled the cuts of 15 and 20 percent in 1956 acreage allotments for

(Continued on Page 4)

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## LATE CROPS (Continued)

or three months. Under continuing favorable conditions, crops can overcome their late start and even provide a bountiful harvest.

Small grains at the first of the month were coming into full maturity. Temperatures during the spring and early summer have not been sufficiently low to cause material damage to these crops. A few scattered areas could have used a little more rainfall in mid-May, but it is thought that in most cases soil moisture was sufficient to produce full heads of grain. Harvest of small grains was proceeding rapidly by the end of the first week in June, and it now looks as if the most of these crops will produce record or near-record yields.

Soil moisture conditions at the turn of the month were generally described for most sections of the state as being adequate. During the latter part of May soils were getting quite dry, particularly in some areas, but general rains extending over the last day of May and the first two days of June were ample to alleviate the situation. Reports of droughty conditions are rare and isolated, and with reasonable amounts of properly dispersed rainfall in the weeks ahead, crops should be able to make optimum growth so far as soil moisture is concerned.



## FAIR PRODUCTION OF TRUCK CROPS EXPECTED

Reports from North Carolina producers as of June 1 indicate that the production from the State's 2,300 acres of late spring cabbage will amount to about 15,000 tons, with an average yield of 6.5 tons per acre. Last year, late spring cabbage was severely hurt by the late March freeze and yields on 2,100 acres amounted to only 4.5 tons per acre with a total production of 9,400 tons.

The North Carolina acreage of cantaloups for harvest in 1956 is estimated at 4,300 acres, a reduction of 20 percent from the 5,400 acres harvested in 1955. General dissatisfaction with last year's low prices is the reason voiced by producers for the sharp decrease. June 1 reports on condition of this year's crop indicate a production of 215,000 crates with a yield of 50 crates per acre. Production in 1955 was 297,000 crates with an average yield of 55 crates per acre.

Production of cucumbers for fresh market in North Carolina during 1956 is estimated at 385,000 bushels, based on reports from growers as of June 1. This would represent an average yield 70 bushels per acre on the 5,500 acres which have been indicated for harvest. The expected yield is 10 bushels per acre below the forecast of a month ago, the decrease having arisen from retarded growths and more than usual damage from insects. Production on the 6,500 acres harvested last year amounted to 715,000 bushels at a yield of 110 bushels per acre.

Latest estimates place the green pepper acreage in North Carolina for 1956 at 5,100 acres, a reduction of 12 percent from the 5,800 acres harvested in 1955. Estimated yield at 115 bushels per acre would give a production of 586,000 bushels in comparison with last year's yield of 160 bushels and total production of 928,000. Belated cold weather badly hurt this year's crop in some areas, and stands are reported to be only fair to good.

According to reports from producers as of June 1, acreage of sweet corn in North Carolina from 1956 at 6,100 acres will be reduced by 20 percent from the 7,900 harvested in 1955. Many growers have expressed dissatisfaction at last year's prices and it is reported that bud worms have made production of the crop quite trouble-

some. Yield per acre for this year is estimated at 80 units which would give a production of 488,000 units -- a unit consisting of five dozen ears. Last year the yield was 100 units per acre and production totaled 790,000 units.

Harvest of the North Carolina strawberry crop was about over by June 1. Production, though considerably better than for last year, was cut short by late spring freezes and by the production of small berries toward the last of the season when rain was badly needed. A 15,000 acreage, the same as for last year, is estimated to average 65 crates per acre, which would give a production of 98,000 crates. Yield in 1955 was only 25 crates per acre, and total production amounted to only 38,000 crates, the smallest crop on record.

As of June 1, the acreage of summer potatoes in North Carolina was expected to amount to about the same as that harvested in 1955, or 2,600 acres. Stands, however, are not as good as they were a year ago, and yield for this year is estimated at 75 bushels per acre as compared with a yield of 85 bushels last year. The expected production of 195,000 bushels would be short of the 221,000 bushels harvested last year by about 12 percent.

Reports from growers indicate that there have been about 13,000 acres of watermelons planted in North Carolina up to June 1, a reduction of 1,000 acres from 1955. According to the reported condition of the crop, a yield of 200 melons per acre and a total production of 2,600,000 melons are expected, as compared with a yield of 210 melons and a production of 2,940,000 for last year.

Reports from North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato growers, as of June 1 indicate production will total 3,450,000 bushels in 1956. Such a production would average a yield of 230 bushels per acre on the estimated 15,000 acres for harvest. The expected yield would be 30 bushels short of the record yield of 260 bushels per acre established last year on the same total acreage as for this year. Last year's production amounted to 3,900,000 bushels.

Dry weather in eastern North Carolina during May was not favorable for the

(Continued on page 4)



## TRUCK CROPS (Continued)

development of potatoes. Harvest began during the first week of June and probably will extend into the second week of July. Stands in general are not as good as a year ago.

North Carolina's late spring snap bean crop is estimated at 336,000 bushels as against a 468,000 bushel crop for 1955. Yield this year is expected to average only 70 bushels as compared with 90 a year ago. The 1956 estimated acreage at 4,800 is short of that for 1955 by 400 acres. Adverse weather during the early growing season resulted in poor stands and prevented plants from attaining normal maturity.

## MAY MILK PRODUCTION

Reported milk produced on North Carolina farms during May amounted to 162 million pounds, the highest monthly output since July of 1953 when production was the same. Average flow per cow in herd for May, however, was at a record level for any month, there being considerably fewer cows on farms in the State than at other times when total production was higher. Seasonally, the current May production was 12,000,000 pounds above the previous month's total, and it was 4,000,000 above the output for May of 1955.

There were an estimated 348,000 milk cows on farms during May, or 12,000 fewer than in May of 1955. The average production per cow last month was 465 pounds, as compared with 430 pounds for April, 440 pounds for May a year ago, and 426 for July of 1953.

## RECORD N. C. EGG

### PRODUCTION FOR MAY

Production of eggs in North Carolina during May is estimated at 157 million. This output is 9.8 percent above the 143 million eggs produced in May of 1955 and it is the highest production for the month on record.

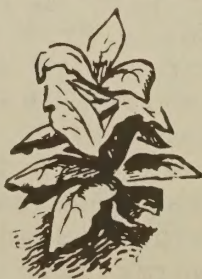
The average number of layers on hand for the month is reported at 8,636,000 as compared with 7,831,000 for May of 1955. Rate of lay per 100 birds at 1,814 was slightly under the rate of 1,820 reported for the month one year ago. The lower rate of lay, however, was more than offset by the highest number of layers on hand during May since records for the State were started.

## TOBACCO SITUATION (Continued)

fire-cured and dark air-cured tobaccos announced last November 30. The prospective 1956 acreages for fire-cured and dark air-cured are probably close to the 1955 harvested acreages. If 1956 yields per acre are near the average for recent years, the 1956-57 total supply of fire-cured seems likely to be about the same as for 1955-56, but the 1956-57 supply of dark air-cured probably will be up some and the largest since the war.

The 1956 crops of flue-cured, burley, Maryland, and the cigar filler and binder types 42-44 and 51-55 will receive Government price support at 90 percent of the applicable parity. The 1956 crops of fire-cured and dark air- and sun-cured will be supported at 75 and 66  $\frac{2}{3}$  percent, respectively, of the burley support level. These are mandatory support levels for the several kinds of tobacco when they are under marketing quotas. The price supports placed in effect when marketings begin are the higher of (1) the minimums announced in the spring or (2) the levels based on the calculations as of the beginning of the marketing year (July 1 for flue-cured and October 1 for the other kinds).

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during fiscal 1955-56 are expected to total about 535 million pounds (declared weight) -- one-sixth larger than 1954-55 and the most since 1946-47. Contributing to the higher level in the current year are the shipments under public law 480 programs under which foreign currencies are accepted in lieu of dollars. Such programs will also be a factor in 1956-57. Demand on the part of countries other than those with P. L. 480 agreements also has been fairly strong. The continuing high levels of economic activity abroad and large general imports by this country are favorable factors affecting tobacco exports.





## RECORD BROILER HATCH FOR NORTH CAROLINA

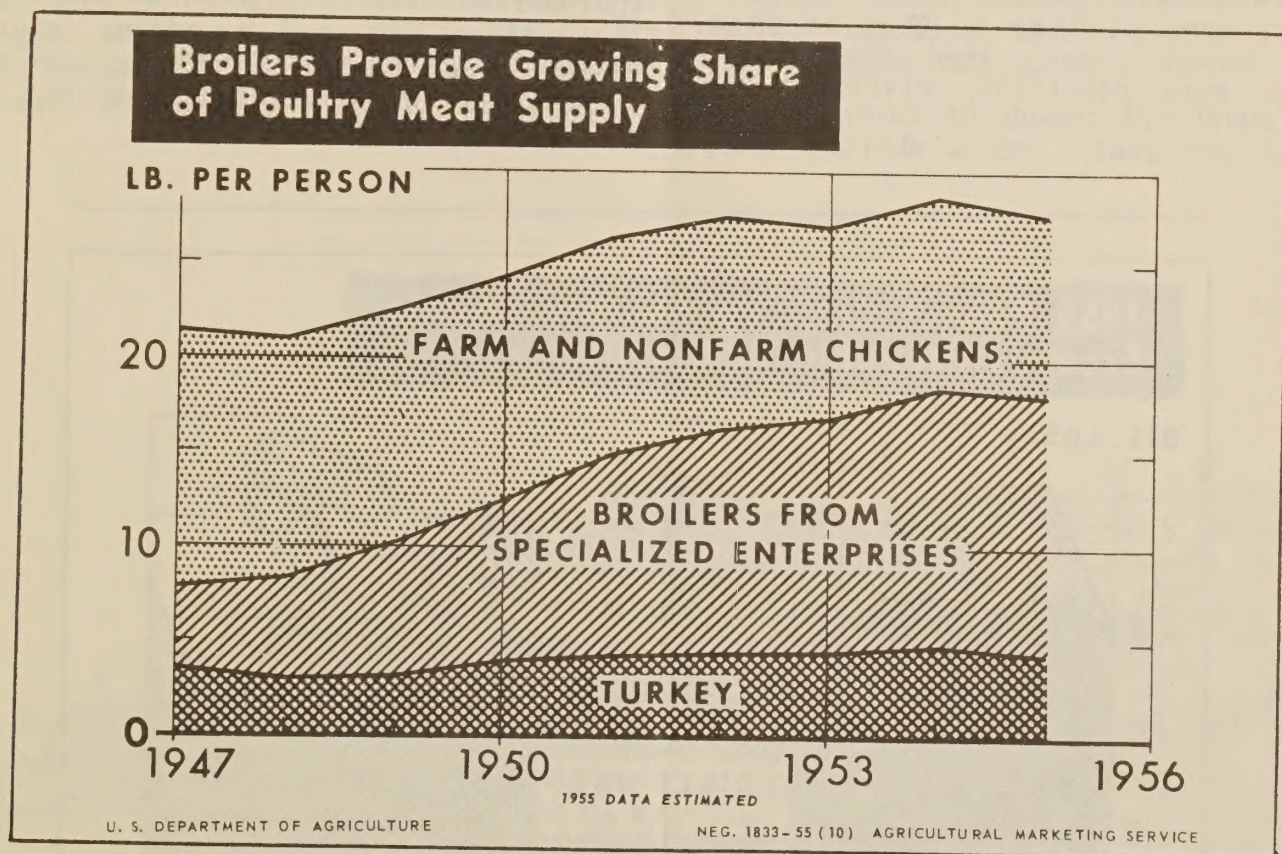
For the nation as a whole commercial hatcheries produced 253,774,000 chicks during May. This was 13 percent above the output of chicks in May last year and 10 percent above the average for the month.

Broiler chicks produced, which accounted for 55 percent of the chicks hatched in May, totaled 140,655,000 -- 21 percent more than in May last year. The demand for broiler chicks continues steady, and a relatively large hatch of broiler chicks in June is in prospect, as the number of eggs in incubators on June 1 was 24 percent more than a year earlier.

Chicks produced other than for broiler production during May totaled 113,119,000 compared with 107,876,000 in May last year -- an increase of 5 percent. A slightly larger hatch of non-broiler chicks in June than a year ago is in prospect, as the number of non-broiler eggs in incubators on June 1 was 6 percent more than on June 1 last year.

Broiler chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during May amounted to 9,406,000. This was a record May hatch for the state and it is currently the second highest in the nation, being exceeded only by the out-put in Georgia. The North Carolina production was almost 22 percent above the 7,717,000 broiler chicks hatched during May a year ago. Totals for the year, January through May, at 43,009,000 was also the second highest in the nation and likewise a record out-put for the state during this period of the year. The production was 26.7 percent above the 33,934,000 hatched during the same period in 1955.

Non-broiler chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina in May totaled 1,223,000 as compared with 395,000 produced a year earlier, representing an increase over last year of about 37 percent. Total chicks, broilers and non-broilers, hatched in the state by commercial hatcheries in May amounted to 10,629,000 as compared with 8,608,000 for May of 1955.



The increased demand of the consuming public for red meat and poultry meat, coupled with the relatively smaller supply of by-product poultry incident to egg production, has given

considerable impetus to the broiler and turkey sectors of the poultry industry. Both are currently producing at record or near-record levels.



## PEANUT SUPPORT LOWERED

It was announced on April 24 that the national average minimum support price for 1956 crop peanuts will be 11.2 cents per pound, 1 cent less than for the 1955 crop. The decline reflects a lowering of supports from 90 to 86 percent of parity and a shift from "old" toward "modernized" parity. ("Old" and "modernized" refer to methods of computing parity.)

The support price will be adjusted upward if upon recalculation at the beginning of the crop year (August 1) it is higher than 11.2 cents.

Farmers placed 300 million pounds of 1955 crop peanuts under support programs. Only about 18 million pounds have been redeemed to date. CCC will acquire all peanuts not redeemed by May 31. Through May 15 the Corporation sold about 135 million pounds, including No. 2 peanuts, for domestic crushing. An additional 45 to 65 million pounds will be diverted to crushing or export. Some peanuts will be offered for sale for edible use. Any part not sold for edible use will be carried over by CCC to give some protection in event of a short crop similar to that in 1954.

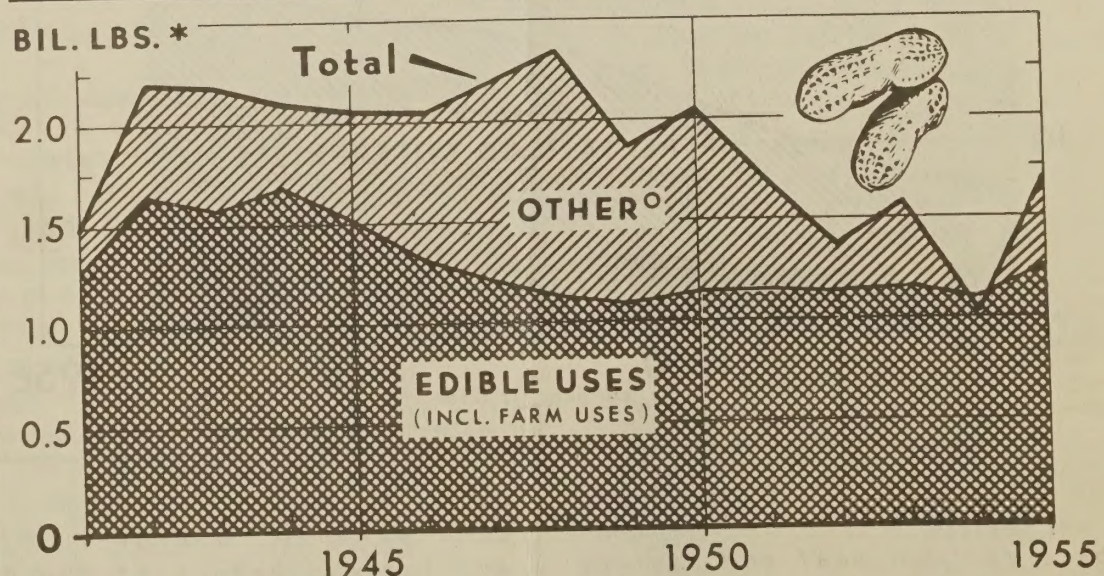
In recent years, when supplies of peanuts were plentiful, civilians consumed about 6.5 pounds of farmers' stock peanuts per year. On a shelled basis,

this is about 4.5 pounds. In the 1954-55 marketing year, consumption fell off about half a pound, farmers' stock basis, because of the short crop and the consequent sharp rise in prices.

With lower prices and large supplies of peanuts, except Virginias, available this marketing year, consumption of shelled peanuts is expected to return to the former level. Consumption of cleaned roasting stock peanuts (Ball-park type) probably will decline for the second consecutive year because of the comparatively short supply and higher prices for Virginias.

Total consumption of shelled peanuts in February-August 1956 is likely to be up considerably from last year as nearly all of the drop in use during the 1954-55 marketing year came during the latter half. Reported use of shelled peanuts in candy, peanut butter and other products in September 1955-January 1956 was about the same as in the previous year. The unreported use, mostly by small concerns who are not required to report, was up considerably and in line with two years earlier when peanuts were plentiful. (Unreported use of shelled peanuts is the residual obtained by adding imports, beginning stocks and production and then subtracting reported use, exports and ending stocks).

### 1955 Peanut Crop Up Sharply—Again Exceeds Probable Edible Use



\* FARMERS' STOCK BASIS

○ CRUSHINGS, EXPORTS, STOCKS



## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MAY, 1956

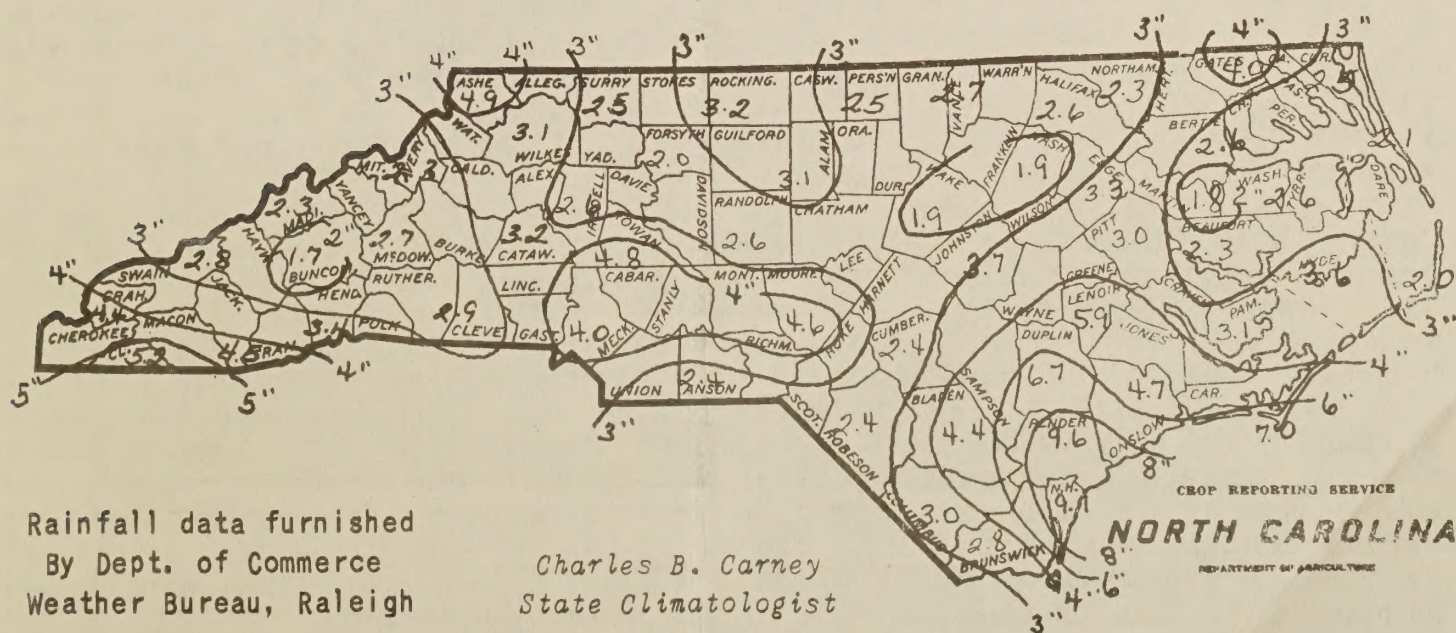
The outstanding features of May weather in North Carolina were widespread dry weather and three equally-spaced occurrences of unusual cold for the time of year. The weather patterns that brought on the unseasonable temperatures were all different: the first was a simple cold front passage early on May 8, followed by high pressure sliding southeastward over the Great Lakes; prolonged low pressure circulation over the Northeastern States and eastern Canada brought the second thrust of cold air southward on the 16th; in the third case, two cold weather fronts crossed North Carolina on the 24th only a few hours apart. The dry weather set in following the first cold spell, and affected all the State except a portion of the southern Coastal plain.

Mild temperatures prevailed over North Carolina the first week in May; then cold high pressure moved southward behind a cold weather front on the 8th, and by the morning of the 9th the coldest weather of the month occurred over most of the State. Freezing weather occurred that morning in the northern piedmont at places where freezing had never before been recorded in May. Record or near-record cold for the time of year occurred

again on the morning of the 17th, with some freezing weather in the Mountains and the 40s elsewhere, and once more on the 25th, when places in the interior northeast dropped to the middle thirties. Between cold spells there were several unseasonably warm days, notably the 14th, when the mercury climbed to 97 degrees at Wilson for the hottest reported during the month.

There were daily rains in North Carolina during the first eight days of May, but amounts were light except for a few locally heavy thundershowers. One of the exceptional spots was Wilmington, where more than two inches fell on the 3rd, and another two inches on the 7th. After the cold weather of the 9th there was no more general rain during the month. Scattered summer-type thundershowers fell, however, and Wilmington also got more than a fair share of rain from these. Nearly two and a half inches fell there on the 20th in two thundershowers; the total rain for the month was more than nine inches, for the wettest May of record. Several nearby stations had similar heavy rains, but over most of North Carolina there was only two to three inches during May.

### INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR MAY 1956



Charles B. Carney  
State Climatologist



# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of  
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*Agricultural Estimates Division*  
*S. R. Newell, Director*

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## GOOD WHEAT CROP IN PROSPECT

Early prospects for a good 1956 wheat crop in North Carolina became even brighter during May. Reports from growers as of June 1, indicated a crop of 8,145,000 bushels on the estimated 362,000 acres for harvest. This would amount to a yield of 22.5 bushels per acre, only a half bushel short of the record 23 bushel yield established in 1951. Last year a 22 bushel average yield was obtained from 326,000 acres which produced a total of 7,172,000 bushels. If this year's expected production materializes, it will be 13.6 percent more than the crop of 1955 and 15.1 percent above the 1945-54 ten-year average production of 7,079,000 bushels.

For the United States all wheat production in 1956 is forecast at 923 million bushels, the smallest since 1943. A crop of this size would be two percent less than the 1955 production of 938 million bushels, and 20 percent less than average.

## FAIR CROP OF PEACHES

### IN PROSPECT

According to reports from peach growers as of June 1, production of peaches in North Carolina in 1956 will amount to about 900,000 bushels. After last year's failure, this looks like a very good crop. In terms of the 1945-54 ten year average of 1,559,000 bushels it amounts to 57.7 percent, but it is only 18.2 percent short of the 1,100,000 bushels produced in 1954.

Nation-wide the 1956 peach crop is forecast at 61,843,000 bushels -- 19 percent larger than last year and almost equal to the crop of 1954, but eight percent smaller than the 1945-54 average. All North Atlantic and Middle Atlantic States except Virginia expect a smaller crop than in 1955. The Southern States and all North Central States except Kansas have prospects for a larger crop than last year's. Of the Western States only California and New Mexico have larger crops than for last year.